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REPORTS ON IDEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF SED

PARTY LEADERS SCORED AT CONFERENCE -- Zurich Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 9 Aug 50

Numerous SED functionaries whose achievements did not come up to the expectations of their superiors were obliged to justify themselves, on the basis of self-criticism, during the Third Party Conference. The main theme of these castigations is the recession of Communism in Germany. Various reasons were given for this "embarrassing" state of affairs. Organizational mistakes and negligence on the part of certain Party members were cited. Reference was made also to "deviation from the party line," "objectivism," "sectarianism," and to "social democratism" which mislead officials and made them a prey to the propaganda of the opposition even to the point of betraying Communist ideology.

To increase the striking power of the SED, intensified training of the Party functionaries in Marxist-Leninist concepts has been introduced. There must be no further excuses in connection with the Oder-Neisse boundary line; the dismantlings and the withdrawals for reparations from Soviet Zone Germany must be upheld without reservations as just compensations for the devastation of the USSR by the German Army.

The greatest hopes are centered in the peace campaign which is to mislead and at the same time intimidate the elements suffering from a dread of war. Efforts are being made to undermine the prestige of the Western Powers by blaming them for the intensification of political opposition existing in the world today, however, opportunists are plainly warned to get on the "right" side while there is still time. Politburo member Franz Dähle stated that it is necessary to do a "tremendous job of enlightenment" (1) so that the population will recognize the threatening danger of war and the real war-mongers, namely, the imperialistic occupation powers, who are preparing for war under the very eyes of the people, and (2) so that the people may be convinced that the Soviet Union is the vanguard of peace and that she has always been a true friend of the German people.

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The more intelligent SED leaders realize the difficulty of their task only too well. Anton Ackermann, another member of the Politburo, is of the opinion that it would take years to achieve the planned change of outlook. He claims that the proposed action can be carried out only by an entirely new corps of officials and that there is no other possibility of coping with the backwardness of the mass movement in the German Democratic Republic.

Even the Communists, provided they have not lost their sense of reality completely, realize why their propaganda has been unsuccessful so far, although most of them take care to keep their opinions to themselves. The essential reason for all their setbacks is the fact that the Germans look on the USSR not as their "true and only friend" but as their archenemy. The Kremlin is continually hurting the feelings as well as the interests of the Germans. Since 1945, its German policy has been one unbroken chain of humiliations and challenges, from the excesses of the Red Army to the establishment of the SED dictatorship. With the exception of the die-hard Stalinists, the German people will never accept the Oder-Neisse line, which the East German Government was obliged to acknowledge in all formality last spring, as the peace boundary with Poland. Even those Germans who admit the inevitability of loss of territory will never subscribe to the unconditional surrender of the entire eastern provinces.

The SED does everything in its power to stimulate nationalism, but it has nothing to offer it; hence the self-criticism expressed at the Party Conference is doomed to sterility. The overwhelming majority of the East German population is against the SED regime. The only reason why this regime has not collapsed is the fact that it rests on USSR bayonets. -- Neue Zuercher Zeitung's Berlin correspondent

FORMER GERMAN RED ATTACKS USSR POLICY IN EAST GERMANY -- Zurich Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 16 Aug 50

One of the contributors to the first number of the semimonthly periodical World Political Review published by the Association of Yugoslav Journalists is Wolfgang Leonhard; a son of the German Communist writer Rudolf Leonhard.

Leonhard was the German commentator for Radio Moscow during the war. He has been a functionary of the SED and an instructor at the Party's school for advanced education in Berlin. In March 1949, he fled to Yugoslavia and at present is the director of German-language broadcasts of Radio Belgrade.

In his article, Leonhard criticizes the increasing subjugation of East Germany to the Soviet occupation power and the forced "russification" of the country's public life. He also attacks the wholesale dismantlings of German enterprises and the USSR's breach of promise with regard to the return of all German prisoners of war by 31 December 1948. The National Front, with its unscrupulous recruitment of capitalists and former Nazi officers and generals, also comes in for criticism. According to Leonhard, all "enemies of democracy" are invited to join the National Front.

AUSTRIAN INTELLECTUALS TURN AWAY FROM COMMUNISM -- Zurich Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 8 Aug 50

It is reported from Vienna that the potential crisis manifest in leftist radical intellectual circles as a result of disagreements over the peace treaty was aggravated by the Korean War and led to an open break in the Austrian Peace Council. Despite its close association with the Communist Party, the Peace Council continues its stubborn efforts to convince

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the public of its nonpolitical character. Following Professor Thirring's expulsion and Alexander Sacher-Masoch's resignation, Franz Theodor Cazokor, president of the Austrian Pen Club, also resigned from the Peace Council.

4 ENGINEERS GET STALIN PRIZE -- Buenos Aires Argentinisches Tageblatt,
11 Aug 50

Four East German engineers have been awarded the Stalin Prize by G. M. Pushkin, Soviet Ambassador to the East German Government, as an expression of the Soviet people's respect and friendship for the democratic forces in Germany.

The Stalin Prize winners are: Ewald Eitge, engineer and technical director of the Krupp-Grusen Plant in Magdeburg; Willy Scheidt, chief engineer of the same plant; Albert Bellwinkel, director of the Polysius Plant in Dessau; and Erich Pfroetzschner, director of the people-owned Riesa Steel and Rolling Mills.

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